

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-8, 16, and 23 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 9-15, 20, 21, 25 and 26 were previously withdrawn as directed towards a non-elected species. Claims 3, 17-19, 22, and 24 are cancelled in this response. The undersigned reserves the right to pursue any of the withdrawn or cancelled claims in a continuation application. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 23 are amended in this response to put the application in position for allowance in accordance with the Office's recommendations. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3-8, 16-19 and 22-24 are rejected in this application as follows: claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter; claims 1, 16-19, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Weld entitled "Recent Advances in AI Planning" ("Weld"); claims 1, 17, 18, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Hess entitled "Using Autonomous Software Agents to Create Next Generation of Decision Support Systems" ("Hess"); claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weld as applied to claim 17; claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hess as applied to claim 17; claims 1, 3-8, 16-19, and 22-24 are rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,992,192. The Office has indicated that claims 3-8 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the double patenting rejection and §101 rejection and include all of the limitations of the independent claims from which the claims 3-8 and 24 depend. The undersigned representative thanks the Office for this indication of allowability.

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, the undersigned respectfully traverses all rejections as set forth below.

Rejection of Claims 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Office Action states:

Claims 23 and 24 fail to expressly recite a practical application; therefore, the usefulness of the invention is unclear. Information is merely collected, distributed, and displayed; however, there is no express recitation of a useful application of this data.

While the undersigned representative does not agree with this rejection, independent claim 23 has been amended to include the language “wherein the inference engine uses the partial order planner to determine a plan for achieving at least one of the one or more goals.” Support for this amendment may be found throughout the specification (*see e.g.*, p.30, ll. 16-21 through p. 31, ll. 1-6). In light of the amendment, claim 23 is allowable.

Rejection of Claims 1, 16-19, and 23 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

Claims 1, 16-19, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Weld entitled “Recent Advances in AI Planning.” Claims 17-19 have been cancelled in this response. Independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended to include the limitation “wherein the knowledge base includes one or more concept graphs.” This amendment was made based on the Office’s indication of allowable subject matter. Therefore, it is appreciated that Weld does not teach each and every limitation as currently amended. Accordingly, in light of the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 23, the undersigned representative respectfully request the rejection of claims 1, 16, and 23, rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Weld, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1, 17, 18, and 23 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

Claims 1, 17, 18, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Hess entitled “Using Autonomous Software Agents to Create Next Generation of Decision Support Systems” (“Hess”). Claims 17 and 18 are cancelled in this response. Independent claims 1 and 23 are amended to include the limitation “wherein the knowledge base includes one or more concept graphs.” This amendment was made based on the Office’s indication of allowable subject matter. Therefore, it is appreciated that Hess does not teach each and every limitation as currently amended. Accordingly, in light of the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 23, the undersigned representative respectfully request the rejection of claims 1 and 23, rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Hess, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 22 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) In View of Weld and Rejection of Claim 22

Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) In View of Hess

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weld and also unpatentable over Hess, as applied to claim 17 above. Claim 22 has been cancelled in this response. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Weld and Hess be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-8, 16-19, and 22-24
Under Non-statutory Obvious-Type Double Patenting

Claims 1, 3-8, 16-19, and 22-24 are rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,992,192 (“the ‘192 patent”). Claims 3, 17-19, 22, and 24 are cancelled in this response. A signed terminal

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disclaimer is being submitted with this response to obviate this rejection regarding pending claims 1, 4-8, 16, and 23.

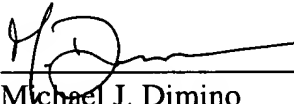
CONCLUSION

With consideration of the above remarks, the undersigned submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution might be advanced by discussing the application with the undersigned, in person or over the telephone, we would welcome the opportunity to do so. In addition, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the same to Deposit Account No. 501458.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 11, 2007
KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
607 14th Street, N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005-2018
(202) 508-5883
(202) 585-0041 fax

By:


Michael J. Dimino
Registration No. 44,657